

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 SAB-01 EURE-00 /084 W

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P R 301803Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5587

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 28754

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR LE XF PLO

SUBJECT: QUAI COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF SEPT. 29, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE NEAR EAST HENRI SERVANT MADE SOME INTERESTING COMMENTS ON LEBANON, GUIRINGAUD'S UNGA STATEMENT, THE PLO AND KUWAIT.

2. LEBANON: THE SYRIAN OFFENSIVE, COMING AT THE MOMENT WHEN SARKIS IS ATTEMPTING TO BRING THE VARIOUS LEBANESE FACTIONS AND THE PALESTINIANS TOGETHER, PLACES HIM IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION. SERVANT THOUGHT SARKIS MIGHT BE UNHAPPY WITH THE ATTACK ABOUT WHICH HE PROBABLY HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED. SARKIS' REACTION
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TO IT WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON WHETHER THE OFFENSIVE

IS LIMITED TO THE AREA NORTH OF THE BEIRUT-DAMASCUS ROAD OR BECOMES MUCH BROADER. IF IT IS LIMITED AND INTENDED PRIMARILY TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE PALESTINIANS TO NEGOTIATE (WHICH THE FRENCH SUSPECT TO BE THE CASE) IT MAY BE HELPFUL; IF IT IS MORE FAR-REACHING, NOBODY KNOWS WHERE IT WILL END. AT ANY RATE, THE FRENCH SUPPORT SARKIS. THEY BELIEVE THAT IF HE IS TO GOVERN EFFECTIVELY, ONE OF HIS PRIMARY TASKS WILL BE TO REGENERATE THE LEBANESE ARMY. THE FRENCH HAVE NO PLANS TO GO BEYOND THEIR SEPT. 23 STATEMENT ON LEBANON (PARIS 28092), RECENT CLAIMS THAT THEY MIGHT SEND TROOPS NOTWITHSTANDING.

3. FRENCH UNGA STATEMENT ON ME: GUIRINGAUD'S STATEMENT ON THE ME WAS VERY CAREFULLY FORMULATED AND ADMITTEDLY SHOWS "PROGRESS" IN THE FRENCH POSITION. SERVANT INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEW PHRASE, "BUT HOW CAN ONE CONCEIVE OF THE EXERCISE OF THIS RIGHT (FOR THE PALESTINIANS TO EXPRESS THEIR NATIONAL IDENTITY) IN THE ABSENCE OF A TERRITORIAL BASE WHICH COULD, WHEN THE TIME COMES, BE ENDOWED WITH STATE STRUCTURES", NEITHER LOCALIZES THE AREA OF ANY FUTURE STATE NOR PREJUDGES ITS STATUS. THUS THE FRENCH STILL REFUSE TO SAY THAT THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD BE PALESTINIAN, AND THAT AN INDEPENDENT, AS OPPOSED TO A FEDERAL OR CONFEDERAL STATUS, IS DESIRABLE. ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS CAN ONLY COME FROM NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE INTERESTED PARTIES AND THE DESIRES OF THE PALESTINIANS, THE FRENCH BELIEVE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 28754

4. THE PLO: SERVANT SAID THAT PLO "FOREIGN MINISTER" QADDUMI WOULD NOT MEET WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS DURING HIS SEPT. 29 - 30 STOPOVER IN PARIS BUT PROBABLY WOULD SEE GUIRINGAUD IN NEW YORK OCT. 1. HE NOTED THAT PLO MEMBERS ARE SPREADING THE STORY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ASSURED OF BEING ALLOWED TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON "AFTER JANUARY 1". SERVANT DOUBTED THAT THE U.S. WAS PREPARED "TO GO THAT FAST". AS FOR THE FRENCH, THEY CONSIDER THAT THE PALESTINIANS' TROUBLES IN LEBANON DO NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT A SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS ESSENTIAL TO ANY MIDEAST SETTLEMENT. LIKEWISE, ARAFAT REMAINS THE BEST BET
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TO NEGOTIATE AN ACCOMMODATION; HE IS NOW WEAK, OF COURSE, AND CAN REALLY LEAD ONLY WHEN HE IS AGAIN IN A STRONG POSITION. THE QUAI HAS NO CONFIRMATION AS YET OF THE REPORTED MEETING IN PARIS BETWEEN ISRAELI AND PLO REPRESENTATIVES.

5. KUWAIT: THE FRENCH HAVE RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT THE EMIR OF KUWAIT'S RECENT ACTIONS INTENDED TO PUT THE BRAKES ON THE PALESTINIANS WERE TAKEN LARGELY ON THE ADVICE OF KING KHALID AND THE SHAH.
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